

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2010, 6:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School Committee met on Monday, April 26, 2010, at 6:30 PM at the High School Library. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, Mrs. Cusick, and Student Representative Brian Strobel.

Mr. Stanish, Middle School Principal; Mr. Walter, Dore & Whittier Architects; Dr. Rogers, School Building Committee Chairman; Mrs. McGrath, Esten School Principal, and Ms. McFarland, Ms. Ferry, Ms. Hogan and Ms. Smith, Esten teachers, and students were present in the audience.

Mr. Norris called the meeting to order. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the School Budget Public hearing was opened.

The Superintendent gave an overview of the FY11 budget, which included a level funded amount of \$18,983,086. There are no cuts to personnel to reach this number. Adjustments that are being made to arrive at this figure include: emergency maintenance only, elimination acquisition of new equipment, savings from retiring teachers, grant funded professional development, reductions in instructional materials, and use of remaining SPED stimulus funds. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the budget was approved. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the hearing was closed.

Mr. Norris reported on an incident that occurred at the high school last week. It was noted that the situation was handled very professionally by the police department and it was stated that the staff and administration carried out the school's emergency procedure expertly.

On the motion of Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee meeting of April 12, 2010 were accepted.

On the motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the minutes of the regular meeting of April 12, 2010 were accepted.

A request from the Rockland Memorial Library to distribute flyers to pre-school and elementary students was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

A request from the Old Colony Council Cub Scouts to distribute flyers to K-Grade 4 students was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

The Superintendent commented on his recent trip to China highlighting the Great Wall and visits to an elite school, a village school and a school for children of migrant workers. Mr. Retchless stated that an exchange program with China for teachers and students is being planned for the future. The Superintendent announced that Elise Soper was awarded first prize at the Spellman Oratorical Contest. Superintendent Retchless commended the custodians at the high school for their efforts cleaning after ceiling tiles were removed in the hallways.

On four separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following Financial Reports for March were accepted:

- 1) School Department
- 2) High School Student Activities
- 3) Middle School Student Activities
- 4) Cafeteria

It was noted that the Cafeteria report is moving in the right direction.

Mrs. McGrath, Esten School Principal, introduced Grade 2 Teachers Ms. Smith, Ms. McFarland, Ms. Ferry, Ms. Hogan, and students who demonstrated the use of document cameras in the RTI Program. It was noted that the document cameras have become a very effective teaching tool. The goal is to have a camera in each classroom.

Mrs. Werkheiser introduced Mr. Walter from Dore & Whittier who gave the Committee an overview of the Middle School Building project. It was noted that the design development portion has been completed. In October the process of bidding for Construction will begin with completion by December. The foundation will be constructed by the end of the summer and steel beams after that. Mr. Walter showed pictures of the proposed exterior and interior of the new building. Pictures were also shown of the auditorium at the King Phillip Middle School. It was noted that Dore & Whittier have worked very successfully with Agostini Construction Company on several projects in the past. The Committee thanked Mr. Walter for his expertise and information. It was announced that the next meeting of the Building Committee will be May 4th.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, Rockland High School 2010-2011 Handbook was approved.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the proposed Grade 7 & 8 Social Studies Textbook, *Journey Across Time: the Early Ages*, was approved pending sufficient funds.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted to table the nomination of a Committee member to serve on the Wellness Committee.

After a brief discussion, the request for approval of the Rogers Middle School designation to secondary school status was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Superintendent Retchless commended Mr. Stanish for his efforts on this issue and noted that there had been no questions or concerns from parents. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous.

Mr. Scarpelli reviewed the lease/purchase bid for Special Education vans noting a change from a three year lease to a five year lease. The bid was awarded to Merchants Leasing. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to award the bid with the approval to authorize a five year lease/purchase agreement by Town Meeting.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve the proposed Special Education Summer School Program. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen unanimous.

Superintendent Retchless reviewed the Personnel Information for March and April noting the appointment of Pamela Driscoll as a part-time SPED aide at Memorial Park School.

Student representative Brian Strobel announced an upcoming fashion show sponsored by the Environmental Club and pops night at the high school. It was also noted that the SPED PAC Toll Booth will be held on May 8th. Other athletic activities including the Little League and girls softball parade, Esten PAC fundraiser at the 99 Restaurant and Town Meeting on May 3rd at 7 PM. The Committee commended Superintendent Retchless and Mr. Scarpelli for their work preparing the FY11 Budget. Mr. Norris commended Peter Ewell for his work getting the town fields ready for the season.

On motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary